What Is Claimed Is:

1. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an input part that inputs document data and coupling information for specifying related information related to an image element constituting a document image; and

an embedding part that embeds the coupling information to be superimposed over at least part of the image element to form the document image of the document data inputted by the input part.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the document data contains appearance information that defines the image formation positions of the image element on the document image, and the embedding part performs embedding based on the appearance information.

3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coupling information indicates a location of the related information.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coupling information specifies information indicative of a location of the related information.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the coupling information specifies the related information itself.

6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the embedding part embeds the coupling information in a form or color in which the coupling information is difficult to identify visually.

7. An image forming medium on which an image constituted by an image element is formed, wherein coupling information for specifying related information related to the image element is superimposed over at least part of the image element.